(c) if so, whether Government will assure that the production/import is reduced in the current and next year; and

(d) if so, how and to what extent, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Plastics in general and Polyethylene in particular are chemically inert materials, used for the manufacture of a large number of consumer items. However, indiscriminate littering of plastics is known to cause adverse impacts on ecology, human beings and animals.

(b) Yes, Sir. As per the information provided by the Indian Center for the Plastics in the Environment, the production/imports of plastics have gone up during last three years.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal with Government. However, to discourage indiscriminate littering and to promote proper collection, segregation, re-use and recycling of plastics, Government have taken several initiatives including the following:

(i) Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage (Amendment) Rules, 2003, have been notified (*vide* S.O. 689 (E) dated 17th June, 2003) to prohibit the manufacturing, stocking, distribution or selling of virgin or recycled plastic carry bags which are less than 8" x 12" in size and thickness less than 20 microns.

(ii) Import of Scrap plastic of non halogenated polymers and copolymers has been restricted under the Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003.

National river conservation and other environmental schemes

1896. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of amounts released to various States under National River Conservation Programme and other environmental schemes for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) whether the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have forwarded any proposal for release of funds under National River Conservation Programme to take-up the work of Environmental Action Plan for Hyderabad and Bangalore cities; and

(c) if so, details of the proposed environmental projects in Hyderabad and Bangalore cities and the action taken by Government in this regard towards release of funds?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of amounts released to various States under National River Conservation Plan and other environmental schemes for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	National River Conservation Plan	15058.51	11698.33	28252.13
2	National Lake Conservation Plan	120.00	19.84	997.91
3	Biosphere Reserve	275.58	404.13	466.69
4	Industrial Pollution Prevention Project	1379.40	1563.09	1980.92
5	Conservation and Management of Mangroves and Coral Reefs	124.04	369.32	212.56
6	Conservation and Management of Wetlands	228.65	369.80	369.98

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details of the environmental projects received from Hyderabad and Bangalore cities are as under:

Sl. No	Project	Town	Action Taken
(i)	Musi River Conservation Plan	Hyderabad	Administrative approval was issued for Rs. 344.08 crore in April, 2003.
(ii)	Environmental Action Plan for Bangalore	Bangalore	Administrative approval & expenditure sanction was issued for Rs. 46.27 crore in Aug., 2002. A sum of Rs. 8.0 crore was released to the State Govt. in September, 2002.